within the Indian side of the International Maritime Boundary Line. Certain issues have been raised by the Government of Sri Lanka, particularly on the environmental implications of the project. Consistent with the cordial and friendly relations between the two countries, the Government of India's endeavour is to address the genuine concerns of the Government of Sri Lanka through mutual discussions for which a mechanism has been put in place.

Per captia daily consumption

*115. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:
SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of persons with per capita daily consumption of upto Rs. 20 has increased from 811 million in 1999-2000 to 836 million in 2004-05;

(b) if so, the reason therefor in spite of economic growth; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to reverse the trend?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) No, Sir. The National Sample Survey data actually show a decline in this number from 1999-2000 to 2004-05.

(b) and (c) In view of (a) above, do not arise.

Expansion of Cellular Phone Services

*116. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether CAG of India has pulled up Public Sector Telecom Company, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), for inordinate delays in carrying out its expansion plans as the delay has led BSNL to lose new customers to the private mobile companies;

(b) whether CAG in its report has pointed out that BSNL failed to select the suppliers for a major expansion of cellular mobile telephone services by 641 lakh lines even after passage of nearly two years;

(c) if so, the other main objections raised by CAG in its report; and

(d) the steps being considered by BSNL to improve the position?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Sir, CAG of India has highlighted some areas where BSNL has to focus to improve its efficiency. Accordingly BSNL has taken steps to strengthen its machinery for acquisition of sites, infrastructure creation and taking clearance from Standing Advisory Committee for Frequency Allocation (SACFA), so that it does not suffer on account of opportunity lost.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) CAG has taken note to delay in initial launch of Cellular Mobile Service and suggested some measures to improve planning of mobile services expansion and its implementation.

(d) BSNL is in the process of incorporating the suggestions given by CAG of India in its report on Planning and Project implementation processes. BSNL has now placed the purchase order to one of the bidders namely M/s. Ericsson India Pvt. Ltd. The advance purchase order placed on M/s Nokia Siemens Network Pvt. Ltd. is yet to be accepted by them.

Pollution in Ganga and Yamuna rivers

*117. SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Ganga and Yamuna rivers are getting polluted due to waste material thrown by various industries and tourists into these rivers;

(b) whether efforts are being made to save these rivers from pollution; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Discharges of effluent from the industries as well as indiscriminate disposal of various forms of wastes at places of mass congregation are among the causes of pollution of rivers Ganga and Yamuna.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The efforts taken by the Government for control of industrial pollution include notifying industry specific effluent standards, promoting setting up of effluent treatment plants and environmental surveillance by the Central/State Pollution Control Boards under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974. Out of 343 grossly polluting industries identified along the rivers Ganga and Yamuna, 83 industries have been closed as a result of concerted efforts of Central and State Pollution Control Boards. For management of municipal solid wastes, the Government has also notified the Municipal Solid Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 2000 and its implementation is monitored by concerned state Pollution Control Boards. Generation of environmental awareness among the masses, construction of community toilets and crematoria are other activities undertaken to control pollution at palces of mass congregation along these rivers.

The Government of India has also undertaken the Ganga Action Plan (GAP) Phase-I between the years 1985 and 2000 to tackle the pollution from domestic wastewater in the identified polluted stretches of the river. GAP Phase-II was subsequently taken up in 1993 and also includes the tributaries of Ganga namely, Yamuna, Gomti, Damodar and Mahananda. So far, a sewage treatment capacity of 1747 mld (million litres per day) has been created for Ganga and its tributaries.

Mining project in Meghalaya

*118. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's flagship Look East Policy project, Lafarge Union Limestone Mining Project in Meghalaya, has been finally ordered as closed by Government on the ground that the project has not been cleared by his Ministry; and

(b) the action being contemplated against the assessor (ERMI) which misrepresented the facts in calling the proposed mining area as waste land when it had thick forest ground?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) The mining operations being undertaken by M/s Lafarge